

## Our Philosophy

Bible Colleges should, we believe, be geared to the needs of both student and the local church rather than to the desires and ambitions of a college faculty. Learning, which is for many, very hard work, should never be viewed as drudgery, but rather something that is enjoyable; in our case it is the enjoyment of learning about Almighty God. All too often spiritual things are picked up by the average Christian in a very casual manner, the result being that one receives a mixture of ideas and theological concepts which are not always in accordance with God's Word, and are often contrary to the doctrines and thought of the historic Christian faith. Such a way of learning, particularly about the things of God is not only unsatisfactory and dangerous, but gives rise to some of the many problems within the Church today. Therefore a Biblical and systematic way of learning of the word of God has a great deal to offer.

Since the earliest days fees and charges have been kept deliberately low, this was to allow anyone, so moved, to be able to easily afford to take our courses. This was made possible by all our staff members who are volunteers and unsalaried, most being ministers or retired ex-ministers, indeed most have borne expenses in order to make the FEM Bible Studies possible down the years, and view it as part of their ministry. FEM could not have continued without the wholehearted vision of those who have cooperated over the decades to provide a way forward for those who had doors slammed in their faces.

It must be clearly set out by us that we are not a business nor are we in competition with other colleges to get 'our share' of students. Definitely not! We are a fellowship of evangelists and ministers who have seen a need and responded to meet it. We hope today that FEM plays its part in equipping men and women for service in the Church of Christ that will be our enduring testimony.

## Distance Learning

Distance learning has certain advantages over the more traditional method of education. It is for example an established fact that education by extension is a very efficient means of learning, one reason for this is that the student is not torn away from his (or her) natural or spiritual environment into one that is alien and sometimes hostile.

Furthermore the church to which the student belongs does not lose an active member for two or three years. This means that the student is able to continue with responsibilities in the church. The other church members are there to help and encourage the student when things get difficult and they have the pastoral care, which such a fellowship affords, as well as remaining under the discipline of the church. Besides this, if the student is a family man with wife and children to support, he is able to carry on with that occupation whilst studying, thus avoiding financial difficulties and the often abused idea that they are "living by faith". The family is not divided, thus the family and the home remain intact, the college having in mind the

Biblical principle of "Let no man put asunder".

Financially, fees are kept to the minimum, the student having only course and book fees to find, the latter may also be reduced if some other believer is willing to lend his books.

Distance learning may also be described as character building, as it requires a greater degree of self-discipline than that called for by the traditional method. It also allows the student to work at a pace that is comfortable.

Distance learning, at least as offered by the Fellowship of Evangelists and Ministers, has the advantage of personal one to one tuition; a tutor is always willing to discuss problems over the telephone, email, letter or through our Facebook page.

## Aims and Objectives

It is our earnest desire that people fully understand what the Fellowship of Evangelists and Ministers is and what shapes our thinking. We want to assist Churches by helping those called to serve improve their quality of service through education, fellowship and support. We also want to make it possible for Bible-believing Christians to deepen and strengthen their faith in order to make them more useful to their home churches.

Our aims and objectives are summed up in five points:

To make available to all Christians the opportunity to advance their knowledge of the historic Christian Faith.

To help establish the Lord's people in their most holy faith.

To encourage the private study of the Holy Scriptures and help develop a well ordered devotional life.

To help equip and encourage the Lord's people for witness and service.

To assist Christian to avoid the snare referred to in Hosea 4:6 ... "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge:"

Students of FEM should be able to:

Demonstrate a good knowledge of the Word of God.

Demonstrate a sound knowledge of what constitutes the Church of Christ.

Be able to clearly communicate the Gospel with others.